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Northern Japan, before the Montreal Horticultural Society; and Plants in their relation to disease, before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, both by Prof. D. P. Penhallow.

Mr David F. Day tells us, in the *Gardener's Monthly*, for January, that he has given much thought to the relation of the form of the flower to its position on the plant, and has arrived at the following conclusions: (1) "A flower, completely regular, is normally either erect or pendulous, and (2) a flower which is irregular, is normally always lateral," and furthermore adds that he has failed to find any published statement to this effect. By consulting Gray's Structural Botany, p. 219, he will see that Sprengel made the observation nearly a century ago, and also had a fair notion of its significance. Mr. Day also notes that where the flower is erect the stamens exceed the pistils in length, but where pendulous the pistils exceed the stamens, i. e., the anthers in either case are above the stigmas. This is, however, an empirical rule to which many exceptions are easily found, and is only valuable as in the preceding case, when considered in connection with the mode of fertilization.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

List of, and Notes upon, the Lichens collected by Dr. T. H. Bean in Alaska and the adjacent region in 1880. By Dr. J. T. Rothrock. Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus. vii. 1, 1884, Washington, D. C.

This is quite a creditable collection of lichens, especially when we consider that Dr. Bean was busy about everything else. Dr. Rothrock says that the accuracy of specific names is due to Mr. Henry Willey, whose name is a very familiar one to students of this group. The list contains 110 species, one being a new *Biatora* from E. Siberia.

Catalogue of Canadian Plants. Part II. Gamopetalæ. By John Macoun. Montreal: Dawson Bros., 1884. 100 pp.

This, like its fellow, is an exceedingly handsome pamphlet. The catalogue is a very complete one, and it would be hard to say what it needed to make it more so. Range, stations, habitat, collectors, and important synonymy are well given, and one turns over these handsomely printed pages with the feeling that our Canadian friends are working together in a good cause, with a hearty good will, and a liberal backing in the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada. The Gamopetalæ embrace 255 genera and 908 species. This remarkably resembles the display of the Polypetalæ, which numbered 243 genera and 907 species. Naturally we turn to our great family of Compositæ and find it includes 81 genera with 374 species, and in this family the great genus *Aster* numbers 54 species, with the acknowledgment, at the close, that Aster is in "great confusion." When will it not be? *Erigeron* numbers 25 species, which can not really be separated from *Aster*, thus making the group contain about 80 species, with several other outlying genera. The other genera then fall pretty much into the same order that American botanists are familiar with. We note that *Collomia* is still retained as a genus, although all distinctions between it and *Gilia* have broken down. Another part will complete the exogens.

Catalogue of the Flora of Minnesota, including its Phænogamous and Vascular Cryptogamous Plants. By Warren Upham. Minneapolis, 1884. 8vo. 193 pp.

This is in many respects a model local flora. It has received the utmost care in preparation, and contains all that is known regarding the occurrence and distribution of the plants of the State, enumerating 1,650 species and varieties. Its compilation has been in progress several years during the more active labors of the author on the geology of the State, it being in fact a portion of the work of the Natural History Survey of the State, and forming a part of the annual report of progress for 1883. If we, therefore, consider it to be chiefly a report of progress as it professes to be, a systematic account of the observations of others supplemented by the very full observations of the author, we can not conceive of a more admirable preparation for the final work of the survey in which the plants of the State will be catalogued with an adequate herbarium as a substantial basis to put its genuineness beyond all question, and such a catalogue we are assured is in contemplation, to include also the lower cryptogams.

A number of features of this list are worthy of special mention. The excellent account of the sources of information shows that twenty-one lists of plants, partially or wholly belonging to Minnesota, have been published at various time, beginning in 1822, and that some forty collectors lent their assistance in addition. The conditions determining the character of the flora, the range of species, introduced plants, review of the catalogue and comparison with the flora of other States and Europe, are topics treated with much interest, but our space will only permit their mention. An excellent map shows the extent of forests, and the limits of a number of trees and shrubs. Species not in Gray's Manual are described at the foot of the page where they occur. A caution should be noted for those who copy descriptions from Gray's Synoptical Flora, pointed out by Mr. Sereno Watson. The specific descriptions of the large genera are partly distributed to the sub-characters, so that if only the characters following the specific name be taken they will not always be sufficient to distinguish the species, particularly in Aster and Solidago.

The excellent typography, ample citation of localities, frequent interesting notes, latest nomenclature, and an ample index lend value to the catalogue.

Comparative Anatomy of the Phanerogams and Ferns. By Dr. A. De Bary. Translated and annotated by F. O. Bower and D. H. Scott. Clarendon Press: Oxford, 1884. 659 pp.

Botanists will hail with delight this English translation of De Bary's Vergleichende Anatomie, just issued from the Clarendon Press. The original has long been in demand in our laboratories, but this translation will put many workers upon an easier footing. Its 660 pages contain an enormous mass of facts with reference to vegetable histology, and a complete index brings all of it within easy reach of the student. The book is divided into two parts, viz., Forms of Tissue and their Arrangement. The forms of tissue are given as *cellular tissue* (epidermis, cork and parenchyma), *sclerenchyma*, *secretory reservoirs*, *tracheæ*, *sieve tubes*, and *laticiferous tubes*. It is an indispensable book to every student of vegetable histology and should find large sale in this country.